

ART. IX.—*Some Australian String Figures.*

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(Communicated by Sir W. Baldwin Spencer, K.C.M.G.; F.R.S.)

(With Plates XX.–XXIV.)

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In the summer of 1914, during the visit to Australia of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, a trip to Milang, from Adelaide, gave us the opportunity of seeing some aborigines. These natives were of the Krapingala tribe, from the shores of Lake Alexandrina, and although they have been in contact with white people for a long time, they still retain the memories of some of their old customs.

For many years now I have made a study of Native String Figures, of Cat's Cradles, from all over the world, and, as none have hitherto been described in detail from Australia, this seemed a good opportunity to collect all that there was time for. A large number of finished figures have, however, been described by Mr. Walter E. Roth,¹ some of which are the same as those that I have collected, but as he does not describe the method of formation, it is impossible to tell if they were arrived at in the same way.

Later on, in the same year, on the way back from British New Guinea, my father and I spent some time at Thursday Island, where we met his friend, Mr. Robert Bruce. With him were two "boys" from Cape York, and I was thus enabled to collect some more Cat's Cradles from the extreme north of Australia.

The figures all show a marked resemblance in technique to those found in Torres Straits and British New Guinea, and in many cases they are identical. It is difficult to generalise from such a small number, but comparison with Mr. Roth's plates gives the same results—namely, that more than half the figures represent men or animals, whilst the rest are common natural objects, or manufactured articles. Two of the moving ones represent "Making Fire" and a "Corroboree" respectively, but none have yet been collected that have any known connection with mythology or magic, nor have any songs been recorded, such as are common in Torres Straits and New Guinea.

¹ Roth, W. E. *North Queensland Ethnography*. Bulletin No. 4, March. 1902.

With more material, however, these may be found, but it is imperative that any collecting should be done without loss of time, for the aborigines are fast dying out, and even now in many tribes these figures are only known to the old people.

The nomenclature¹ adopted was invented by Drs. Rivers and Haddon.²

A string passed over a digit is termed a loop. A loop consists of two strings. Anatomically, anything on the thumb side of the hand is called "radial," and anything on the little finger side is called "ulnar"; each loop, therefore, is composed of a radial and ulnar string. By employing the terms thumb, index, middle finger, ring finger, little finger, and right and left, it is possible to designate any one of the twenty strings that may extend between two hands.

A string lying across the front of the hand is a palmar string, and one lying across the back of the hand is a dorsal string.

Sometimes there are two loops on a digit, one of which is nearer the finger-tip than the other. Anatomically, that which is nearer to the point of attachment is "proximal," that which is nearer the free end is "distal." Thus, of two loops on a digit, the one which is nearer the hand is the proximal loop, that which is nearer the tip of the digit is the distal loop; similarly, we can speak of a proximal string and a distal string.

In all cases various parts of the string figures are transferred from one digit or sets of digits to another or others. This is done by inserting a digit (or digits) into certain loops of the figure, and then restoring the digit (or digits) back to the original position, so as to bring with it (or them) one string or both strings of the loop. In rare cases a string is taken up between thumb and index. A digit may be inserted into a loop from the proximal or distal side, and in passing to a given loop the digit may pass to the distal or proximal side of other loops. These expressions are used as a general rule instead of "over and under," "above and below," because the applicability of the latter terms depends on the way in which the figures are held. If the figures are held horizontally, "over and above" will correspond as a general rule to the distal side, while "under and below" will correspond to the proximal side. In some cases where there is no possibility of confusion, the simpler terminology is used.

1 The following passages are taken from my book, "Cats' Cradles in Many Lands," by the courtesy of the publishers, Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co.

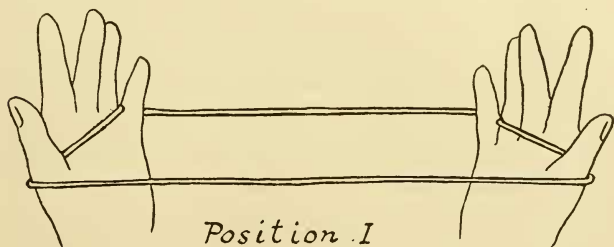
2 Rivers, W.H.R., and Haddon, A. C., "A Method of Recording String Figures and Tricks." *Man*, October, 1902, 109, p. 146.

A given string may be taken up by a digit so that it lies on the front or palmar aspect of the finger, or so that it lies on the back or dorsal aspect. In nearly all cases it will be found that when a string is taken up by inserting the digit into the distal side of a loop, the string will have been taken up by the palmar aspect of the digit, and that the insertion into the proximal side of the loop involves taking up the string by the dorsal aspect of the digit.

Other operations involved are those of transferring strings from one digit to another, and dropping the string from a given digit or digits.

The manipulation consists of a series of movements, after each of which the figure should be extended by drawing the hands apart and separating the digits. In some cases in which this would interfere with the formation of the figure, a special instruction will be given that the figure is not to be extended. Usually, it is advisable to retain the loops as near the tips of the digits as possible, and to keep the strings as loose as you can until the completion of the figure.

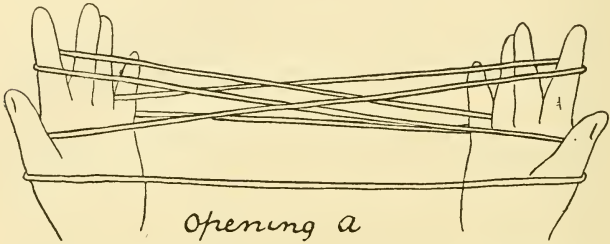
There are certain opening positions and movements which are common to many figures. To save trouble, these may receive conventional names; the use of these will soon be apparent.



Position I.—This name may be applied to the position in which the string is placed on the hands when beginning the great majority of the figures.

Place the string over the thumbs and little fingers of both hands, so that on each hand the string passes round the back of the little finger, then between the little and ring fingers and across the palm; then between the index and thumb and round the back of the thumb to the radial side of the hand. When the hands are drawn apart the result is a single radial thumb string and a single ulnar little finger string on each hand, with a string lying across the palm.

This position differs from the opening position of the English cat's cradle, in which the string is wound round the hand so that one string lies across the palm and two across the back of the hand, with a single radial index string and a single ulnar little finger string.



Opening A.—This name may be applied to the manipulation which forms the most frequent starting point of the various figures. Place strings on hands in *Position 1*. With the back of the index of the right hand, take up from the proximal side (or from below) the left palmar string and return. There will now be a loop on the right index, formed by strings passing from the radial side of the little finger and the ulnar side of thumb of the left hand, i.e. the radial little finger strings and the ulnar thumb strings respectively.

With the back of the index of the left hand, take up from the proximal side (or from below) the right palmar string and return, keeping the index within the right index loop all the time, so that the strings now joining the loop on the left index lie within the right index loop.

The figure now consists of six loops, on the thumb, index, and little finger of each hand. The radial little finger string of each hand crosses in the centre of the figure to form the ulnar index string of the other hand, and similarly the ulnar thumb string of one hand crosses and becomes the radial index of the other hand.

The places where the strings cross in the centre of the figure may be termed the crosses of *Opening A*.

To "*Navaho*."—When there are two loops on a digit, a distal one and a proximal one, to *Navaho* is to lift the proximal loop over the distal one and over the tip of the digit on to its palmar aspect.

"*Pindiki*" is a native name for the final extension of many of the figures. It consists of passing the index fingers proximal to the ulnar thumb string, and bringing them up through the thumb loop

so that this string makes a half turn round their tips, at the same time keeping the thumbs closely pressed against the index fingers to hold the ulnar thumb string firm. Then extend the figure by turning the palms of the hands away from you.

You are sometimes required to twist a loop. This may be done "clockwise"—that is in the direction in which the hands of a clock travel—or in the opposite way, which is termed "counter clockwise."

In some finished figures, if the strings are pulled apart carelessly a hopeless tangle is the result. To avoid this, take the top and bottom straight strings of the figure and pull them apart, and the string will usually resolve itself into a simple loop.

The string selected should be smooth and pliable, and one which is not liable to kink. Macrami thread, or a fine woven cord, like blind cord, will be found to be very suitable. A length of about 6 ft. 6 in. (2 metres) is usually the most convenient. The ends should be tied in a reef knot, or sewn together with cotton, or, best of all, spliced.

1. (Plate XX.)—BARBED SPEARS = *Miral Kaiperi*. (South Australia).

Collected by Miss C. Herdman.

Hold the string between the thumb and index fingers, the hands being about six inches apart, and make a loop by bringing the right hand towards you and to the left. Hold the strings between the thumbs and index fingers, so that both the loops hang down, and pass both index fingers towards you through both loops.

Draw the hands apart, and turn the fingers up (Top Opening).

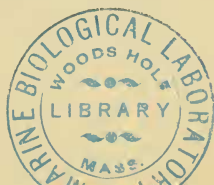
Pass the right thumb distal to the proximal radial index string, and pick up the proximal ulnar index string from the proximal side.

Pass the left thumb distal to the proximal index loop, and pick up the distal ulnar index string from the proximal side.

Pass the right little finger distal to the distal ulnar index string, and pick up the proximal radial index string from the proximal side.

Pass the left little finger distal to the proximal ulnar index string, and pick up the proximal radial index string from the proximal side.

Pass the middle fingers distal to the distal radial index string, and into the little finger loops distally, then straighten them out, thus picking up the distal ulnar index string.



Release the thumbs, pass them distal to their original loops, and pick up the distal radial index string beyond the point where it is crossed by the radial middle finger string.

Hook the little fingers over the ulnar middle finger strings, release the middle fingers, and pull down the little fingers to extend.

Release the thumbs and the little fingers and the spears are thrown.

The inverted triangle in the centre represents the barb.

2. (Plate XX.)—GRANITE ROCKS=*Tarkai*. (South Australia).

Opening A.

Pass the thumbs proximal to the index loops and into the little finger loops proximally. Pick up the radial little and ulnar index strings. Release the index fingers.

Pass the index fingers distally into the thumb loops, and out towards you proximal to the two distal strings, but distal to the proximal string (which runs straight across), turn the index fingers down and up away from you and pick up this string.

Keeping the thumbs pointing away from you, pass them proximal to the ulnar little finger string and pick this up through the thumb loops. Release little fingers.

Transfer the thumb loops to the hooks of the little fingers.

Keeping the little fingers hooked down, pass the thumbs distally through the little finger loops, and pick up the radial, little, and ulnar index strings. Release indices and Pindiki.

3. (Plate XX.)—A NIGHT OWL=*Kroldambi*. (South Australia).

Make the "Granite Rocks."

Hold the two thumb strings firmly against the base of the index finger, and release the little fingers.

Pass the little fingers proximally through the loops just released, and hold down the ulnar index string. Release the index fingers.

Pindiki the original little finger string.

This represents the Night Owl, with its large ears.

4. (Plate XXI.)—WATER RAT=*Ekel*i. (South Australia).

Hold part of the string with the thumbs and index fingers, the hands being about six inches apart. Make a small ring by passing the right hand away from the body, and toward the left side, and hold it by the thumb and index of the right hand in such manner that the small ring is away from the body.

Insert the index fingers, pointing downwards, into the small ring, and the thumbs, also pointing downwards, into the large loop. Draw tight.

With a turn of the wrists make the thumbs point upward. Pass the thumbs distal to the radial index string, and pick up the ulnar index string proximally.

Pass the little fingers distal to the radial index string, and pick up the ulnar thumb string proximally. Release thumbs.

Pass the thumbs proximally into the little finger loops, and pick up the radial little and ulnar index strings. Release indices.

Pindiki—The Rat Swimming.¹

Release indices and Pindiki distal radial thumb strings—The Rat Under Water.

5. (Plate XXI.)—Two SWANS=*Kungwari*. (South Australia).

Opening A.

Pass the thumbs distal to the index loops, and pick up the radial little finger strings proximally.

Bend the index fingers into their own loops, over the palmar strings. Release the little fingers, and turn up the indices away from you.

Pass the little fingers proximal to the index loops and into the thumb loops proximally, hook down the distal radial thumb string, then pass them towards you proximal to the radial thumb string, and pick up this string on their backs, returning proximal to the other strings. Release the thumbs.

Pass the thumbs proximal to the index loops, and into the little finger loops proximally. Pick up the radial little and ulnar index strings. Release the index fingers.

Pick up the ulnar thumb strings with the index finger proximally, and extend.

6. (Plate XXI.)—A CRANE=*Krogwali*. (South Australia).

Collected by Miss C. Herdman.

Position 1, with a double twist in the centre, so that the radial string runs straight across, whilst the ulnar string loops round it.

Opening A.

Pass the thumbs distal to the radial index strings, and proximal to the ulnar index and radial little finger strings, and return, picking up these two strings on the back of the thumbs.

¹ Roth (loc. cit.), pl. iv., No. 7.

Pass the little fingers distal to the radial index and ulnar thumb strings, and draw these strings out. Take the little fingers out of their loops, and reinsert them in the opposite direction.

There are now two triangles with their bases towards you; bend the index fingers into these distally, and on their backs pick up the inner string of each triangle. Release the thumbs.

Pass the thumbs through the little finger loops from the proximal side, and pick up the radial little and both ulnar index finger strings returning proximal to the radial index finger string.

Release the distal index loops.

With the index fingers pick up the distal ulnar thumb strings proximally.

Hook the right index over the distal left index loop, taking it off the finger, and hook the left index over the equivalent loop on the right index, and take it off the finger.

Release the thumbs and extend, turning the indices away from you.

7. (Plate XXI.)—A JEW LIZARD. (Victoria)

Collected by Mr. J. W. Layard.

Opening A.

Release right index and pull tight.

*Pass the right thumb into the right little finger loop proximally, and pick up the radial string. Pass the right index over the palmar string, and into the thumb loop proximally, and pick up the ulnar thumb string.

With the left thumb and index take hold of the two radial thumb strings and lift them off the right thumb. Pass the right thumb away from you between its radial index and radial little finger strings, then turn it down and up towards you, thus picking up on its back the radial little finger string. Release the right little finger and transfer the right index loop to it.

Repeat from * twice.

Pass the right thumb into the right little finger loop proximally and pick up the radial string.

With the right thumb and index lift the left index loop off that digit, and place it over the whole left hand. Then take hold of the left ulnar thumb and radial little finger strings, release the left hand from all its strings, and replace the thumb and little finger loops.

Pindiki with the right index, and turn the hand away from you till the fingers point downwards, to extend the figure.

This figure represents a Jew Lizard (*Amphibolurus barbatus*), with its large head on the left, and its tail and back legs on the right, and is the same as Roth's "Fish" from Atherton (Pl. VII., Fig. 4).

8. (Plate XXII.)—A CORROBOREE=*Ewite*. (Cape York).

Opening A.

Place the big toe across the centre of all the strings. With the left thumb and index draw out the right ulnar thumb string proximal to the radial thumb string, pass the digits through this loop proximally, and draw out the radial index string; repeat with the ulnar index, and radial and ulnar little finger strings in turn. Release the little finger, and place the last loop on it.

Repeat with the other hand.

Release the toe, then place the ulnar little finger string in the centre of the figure, over the toe. Release the indices. Rotate the hands from side to side, and imitate the movements of the dance.

9. (Plate XXII.)—MAKING FIRE=*Atundi*. (Cape York).

Hold part of the string with the thumbs and index fingers, the hands being about six inches apart. Make a small ring by passing the right hand clockwise (towards the body) towards the left side, and hold the loop by the thumb and index of the right hand in such manner that the small ring is away from the body.

Insert the index fingers, pointing downwards, into the small ring, and the thumbs, also pointing downwards, into the large loop. Draw tight and turn the thumb up.

Transfer the thumb loops to the index fingers.

Turn the left index downwards, and place each index loop on its hand in *Position I*.

Another person puts his hand through the centre to represent the flame. Release right hand and pull off.

This figure resembles one from Torres Straits, called "Playing Ball," collected in 1898, by Dr. A. C. Haddon.¹

10. (Plate XXII.)—A COUGH=*Ole*. (Cape York).

Opening A.

Make The Crayfish (p. No. xxii.)

Pass the little fingers proximally into the triangles adjacent to the thumb loops, thus catching down the radial thumb string that runs straight across. Release thumbs.

¹ Reports of the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to Torres Straits, vol. iv., p. 336.

Pass the thumbs away from you (proximally) into the triangles adjacent to the index finger loops, picking up the radial index string that runs straight across. Release index fingers.

Pass the index fingers into the little finger loops and turn them up towards you, thus picking up the radial little finger string.

Extend and release thumbs, so that their loop unwinds with a jerk.

11. (Plate XXII.)—A FULL MOON=*Akiana*. (Cape York).

Opening A.

Close together the fingers of each hand and pass them distally into the thumb loop, then turn them up, so that the radial thumb string passes to the ulnar side of the hand. Pass the thumbs proximal to the radial string (that comes from the back of the hand, and is the original ulnar thumb string), and allow the loop to slip on to the wrist.

Pass the thumbs towards you, then away, proximal to the wrist loop, but distal to the ulnar little finger string, catch this string on the backs of the thumbs and return. Release little fingers.

Pass the little fingers distal to the index loops and pick up the ulnar thumb strings proximally.

Exchange the index loops, passing the right through the left.

Pass the middle fingers distally through the index finger loops and pick up the ulnar thumb strings proximally.

Release the thumbs and indices, and then the little fingers, and extend.

12. (Plate XXII.)—LIGHTNING=*Utemo*. (Cape York).

Opening A.

Pass the mouth proximal to the radial thumb string, distal to the radial cross, proximal to the ulnar cross, and catch hold of the ulnar little finger string, draw this out, pass it under the figure and place it over the toe.

Pass the thumbs into the index loops proximally and pick up the radial string. Navaho thumbs and release indices.

Pass the indices distal to the ulnar thumb strings, then bend them downwards, and into the little finger loops distally and turn them up towards you, picking up the radial little finger strings. Release thumbs.

Cf. Roth (loc. cit.), pl. xi., No. 5. "Two Rocks sticking out of the Water." Cape Grafton and Atherton.

Pick up the ulnar index string with the thumbs proximally. Release indices.

This represents a Thundercloud. Release the little fingers and pull tight sharply, and the lightning will flash out.

13. (Plate XXII.)=A DRUM=*Aropa*. (Cape York).

Opening A.

Pass the middle fingers into the index loops distally, and pick up the radial index and ulnar thumb strings proximally. Release thumbs.

Pass the thumbs into the little finger loops proximally, and pick up the radial little and ulnar index finger strings proximally. Release little fingers.

Pass the little fingers distal to the middle finger loops and pick up the ulnar thumb strings proximally. Release thumbs.

Pass the thumbs into the little finger loops proximally, and pick up the radial little, and ulnar index finger strings proximally. Release the little fingers.

Pass the little fingers distal to the middle finger loops and pick up the ulnar thumb strings proximally.

Bend the index fingers over the palmar strings and into the middle finger loops distally, then turn them up towards you, picking up the (single) radial middle finger string. Release thumbs.

Pass the thumbs proximal to the ulnar little finger string and draw this string towards you, then pass them proximally into the middle finger loops; turn them down away from you, then up towards you, thus picking up the two ulnar middle finger strings.

Release all except the thumbs and extend gently.

Pass the little fingers proximally into the thumb loops and pick up on their backs one of the ulnar strings that runs straight across.

Pindiki and extend.

14. (Plate XXII.)—A CANOE=*Auto*. (Cape York).

Top Opening (See p. 125, No. 1).

Pass the right thumb distal to the proximal radial index string and pick up the proximal ulnar string on its back.

Pass the left thumb distal to the proximal index loop and pick up the distal ulnar string on its back.

Pass the little fingers distal to the distal index loop, and pick up the proximal radial index string on their backs.

Bend the index fingers, and, turning them up towards you, pick up on their tips the straight median string of the figure, beyond the twist.

Release the thumbs, then pass them into the little finger loops proximally, and pick up on their backs the oblique string (which runs straight across), and extend.

15. (Plate XXIII.)—A WATERSPOUT=*Mare*. (Cape York).

Make the Canoe.

Pass the thumbs distal to the oblique strings crossing the index loops, and pull this string down, then pass them to the palmar side of the palmar string, and pick this string up on their backs, returning through their original loops.

Release the little fingers, then pass them distal to the ulnar index string, and pick up proximally the radial index string (that runs straight across).

Pindiki the ulnar index string and extend, by separating the thumbs and indices, so that the radial thumb and the ulnar index strings are parallel and in a plane at right angles to the rest of the figure.

16. (Plate XXII.)—A LIZARD=*Yawundi*. (Cape York).

Opening A.

Pass the radial string over the rest and place it on the toe.

Exchange index loops, passing the right through the left one.

Pass the middle fingers distally through the index loops and pick up the ulnar thumb string on their backs, returning through the index loops.

Release the thumbs, indices and little fingers and draw out, and the Lizard will run up a tree.

17. Plate (XXIII.)—Two MEN=*Ama*. (Cape York).

Opening A.

Pass the thumbs distally through the index loops and pick up the radial little fingers strings proximally. Release indices, and navaho thumbs.

Take the thumb loops between the thumb and index fingers and pull the radial string so that the central loop decreases in size, then reverse, and it enlarges again.

Cf. Roth (loc. cit.), pl. xii., 2. "Canoe." Cape Grafton, Cape Bedford, Night Island, Princess-Charlotte Bay.

This represents two men meeting and then going away again, and closely resembles one collected by Mrs. Jayne¹ from a Kopek Eskimo, and called "A Mouth."

18. (Plate XXIII.)—TWO MEN UP A TREE=*Ama*. (Cape York).

Opening A.

Pass the radial thumb string distal to the other strings and place over the toe.

Bend the thumbs down proximal to all the strings and outside their respective toe strings; pick up these strings on their back, and return through the thumb loops.

Release the toe, and place each little finger loop on it. Release the index fingers and extend.

This represents two men up a tree.

19. (Plate XXIII.)—THE FLYING FOXES=*Unke*. (Cape York).

Opening A.

Take the left radial index string in the mouth and release both indices,

Pass the index fingers distally into the little finger loops, and pick up the radial string towards you, then pass them into the thumb loops distally and pick up the ulnar string away from you, letting the other string slip off.

Bend the thumbs away from you, catching down the oblique string of the index finger triangles and allowing their 'original strings to slip off. Release little fingers.

Release mouth, and the two flying foxes fly apart.

This figure is the same as the "Leashing of Lochiel's Dogs," from Scotland,¹ and appears to be almost universal, as it has been described from West and East Africa, from the Cherokee Indians and Eskimo, and figured by Roth (*loc. cit.*) as "Four-pronged Spear," Cape Bedford, *syn.* "Speared Kangaroo," Princess Charlotte Bay.

20. (Plate XXIII.)—TWO KANGAROOS=*Apo*. (Cape York).

Opening A.

Place the left index loop on the big toe (passing it distal to the little finger loop), and release both index fingers.

¹ "String Figures." Pub. Chas. Scribner & Sons, New York, 1906, p. 282.

¹ Haddon. "Cats' Cradles from Many Lands," p. 73.

Pass the index fingers away from you, distal to the little finger loops, then bend them down towards you, proximal to these loops, and into the thumb loops distally. Turn them away from you again and return, picking up the ulnar thumb strings. Release thumbs.

Transfer the index loops to the thumbs.

Pick up the radial little finger strings with the thumbs proximally, and pindiki.

Release the toe, and draw the hands apart, and two Kangaroos will run away.

21. (Plate XXIII.)—A MULLET=*Yappa*. (Cape York).

Place the loop on the little fingers.

Pick up the left radial little finger string with the right thumb proximally, and the right radial little finger string with the left thumb proximally, distal to the right thumb loop.

Bend the index fingers away from you distal to the little finger loops, then proximal to them and into the thumb loops distally, straighten the index fingers away from you, picking up the ulnar thumb string, then bend them towards you into the thumb loop (distally), and pick up the radial thumb string. Release thumbs.

Pass the thumbs proximal to the distal radial and the ulnar index string and pick up the latter on their backs.

Release index fingers. Rotate the left hand till the fingers point downwards, to extend.

Release thumbs and pull tight quickly, and the fish is caught.

22. (Plate XXIV.)—A CRAY-FISH=*Alouya*. (Cape York).

Opening A.

Pass the thumbs proximal to the index loops, and into the little finger loops from the proximal side, turn them downwards over the ulnar little finger string picking this string up, and returning proximally to the other loops. Release the little fingers.

Pass the little fingers proximally into the index loop, and draw down the radial string.

Pass the index fingers distally into the thumb loops, and turn them away from you, thus picking up the two ulnar thumb strings through the original index loops. Release the little fingers.

To kill the Cray-fish.

Pass the little fingers proximally into the triangles adjacent to the thumb loops, thus catching down the radial thumb string.

Release the thumbs and pass them away from you into the triangle adjacent to the index finger loops, picking up on their backs the straight radial index string. Release the index fingers.

This figure is the same when finished as one collected by Mr. Stewart Culin¹ from Hawaii, as "A Pump."

23. (Plate XXIV.)—A DUGONG=*Matei*. (Cape York).

Opening A.

Release the right index and draw tight. Bend the left index into its own loop, catching down this string, and allowing its own to slip off.

Release the left thumb. Bring the left thumb and index together tip to tip, and slip the index loop on to the thumb.

Pass the left index to the radial side of the loose loop that runs to its palmar string, and pick up the radial string proximally, then pass it to the ulnar side of the ulnar string of this loop, and, turning up the index fingers towards you, pick up this string, letting the other slip off.

Similarly pick up with the right index the right ulnar thumb and the radial little finger strings.

Pass the little fingers into the index loops proximally, and hook down the oblique strings that run towards the centre of the figure, allowing the original little finger loops to slip off.

Release the thumbs, then pass them away from you into the space at the bottom of the figure, and pick up on their backs the strings that run straight across the figure. Release the little fingers.

This represents a Dugong, the left hand diamond is the head, and the right hand one is its tail.

24. (Plate XXIV.)—A SCRUB HEN=*Etanga*. (Cape York).

Position 1 on left hand.

Pass the right hand between the two pendant strings, and separate the thumb and the little finger widely, thus picking up on them the left thumb and little finger strings respectively, and draw out.

Release the left hand and repeat this movement with it.

Pass the thumbs proximal to the radial little finger string and pick it up.

Pass the little fingers proximal to the ulnar thumb string and pick it up.

¹ "Hawaiian Games." *American Anthropologist*, vol. i., No. 2 (n.s.), April, 1899, p. 222.

Do Opening A with single palmar strings.

Pass the radial thumb string distal to the rest, and place it over the toe. Slip thumbs out of this string.

Release little fingers, transfer the index loops to the thumbs, and place this double loop over the hands in Position 1.

Move hands towards and away from you to imitate the bird scraping together its mound.

Take the loop off the hands and rotate through 180 degrees clockwise, and replace in Position 1, so that the ulnar little fingers strings are still ulnar, but lie over instead of under the toe strings.

Again imitate the bird scratching.

Release thumbs and lay figure down with the little finger strings nearest you.

Pick up on the indices their respective toe strings in the centre of the figure and draw out.

This represents the two eggs laid by the Scrub Hen.
